



# County Office of Education Environmental Literacy Community of Practice

2024-25 Virtual Meetings



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LITERACY  
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# Agenda

- Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
- Expanded Learning and Environmental Literacy
- Breakout Rooms
- Closing



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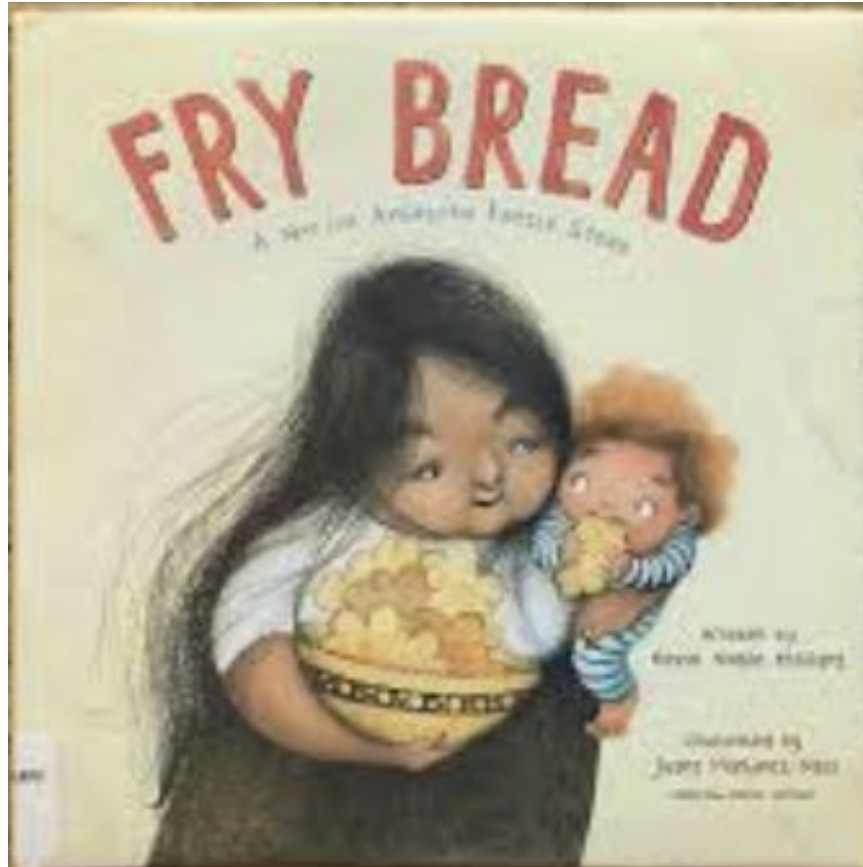


# Welcome



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# Land Acknowledgement



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# Connecting

**Share in the chat:**

What is a favorite food that you make or eat in your family?

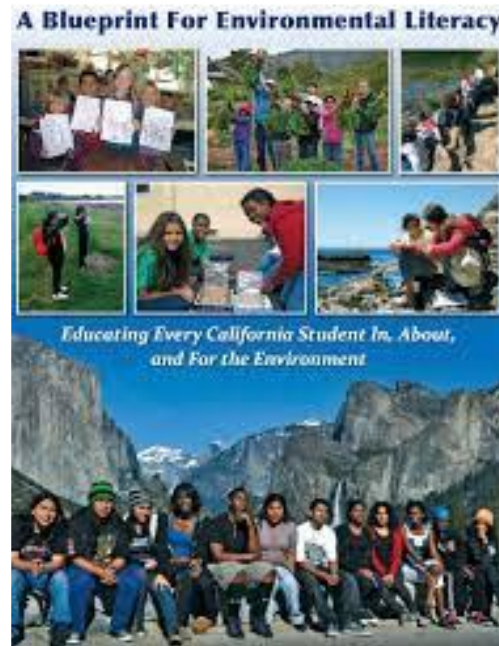
How is this tied to the land?



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# What is CAELI?

The [California Environmental Literacy Initiative \(CAELI\)](#), led by Ten Strands, works statewide to change the education system so that it supports environmental literacy with a focus on equity, inclusion, and cultural relevance for all students.



This collective impact network works with guidance from a leadership council composed of action oriented innovation hubs.



# CAELI COE Innovation Hub

Members in the CAELI [County Office of Education \(COE\) Innovation Hub](#) have a role that provides some type of backbone support for environmental literacy, sustainability, and climate resilient efforts within their county region's K12 schools.



2024-25 Map of COE Engagement with CAELI  
Peach: COEs that engaged in the COP or other CAELI Programs  
Orange: CAELI COE Innovation Hub



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# COP Objectives

By sharing our resources and innovative practices, this COP intends to build the capacity of COEs to serve as regional backbone support for the following outcomes in each county:

- Supporting access to regular and ongoing environmental and outdoor learning experiences for students, by working with school districts, teachers, and community-based partners. This work centers on supporting those from the most vulnerable and marginalized communities.
- Supporting development of district-wide plans that include experiences for students at all grade levels, with an emphasis on low income students and students of color.
- Applying frameworks that integrate environmental literacy and sustainability into the curriculum, campus, community, and culture.
- Infusing sustainability principles and practices into COE core operations.



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# Expanded Learning



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Butte / Region 2: Gloria Halley and Jeff Salberg

Alameda / Region 4: Monica Dennis

Stanislaus / Region 6: Jose Marquez



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# Region 2

## Connecting Environmental Literacy with Expanded Learning

Impact & Initiatives

**Gloria Halley**

*Regional Director*

**Jeff Salberg**

*Coordinator &  
S.T.E.A.M Lead*

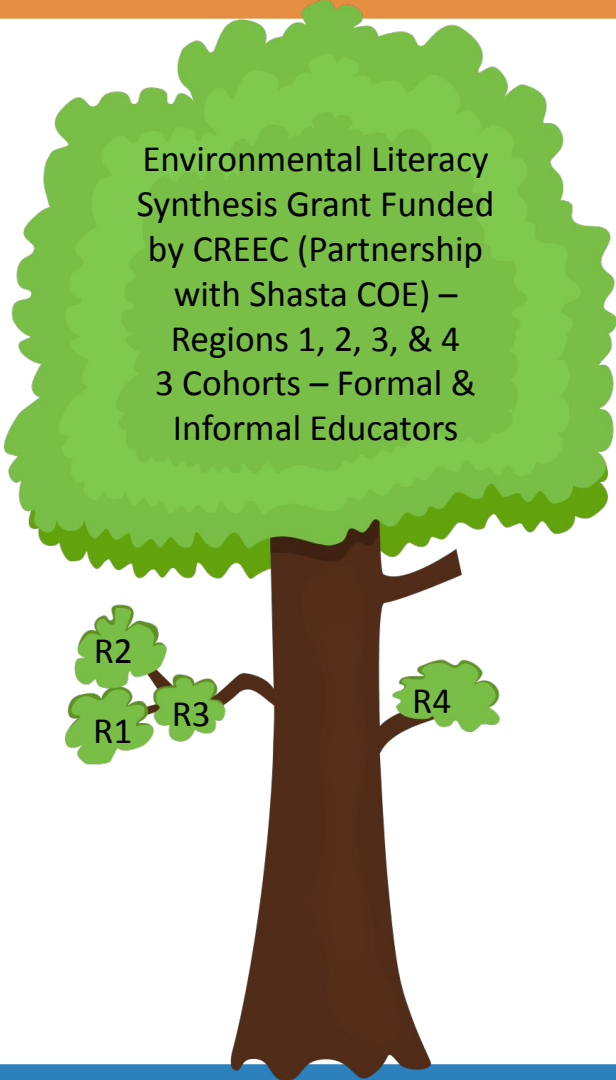


# Our Environmental Literacy Journey


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- In 2014, Butte County's ACE rate of 76.5% (2008-2013) was California's highest, far exceeding the state average of 61.7%.
  - The county has endured major environmental disasters, including the 2018 Camp Fire and 2023 Park Fire
  - Environmental disasters intensify existing trauma, requiring approaches that integrate environmental education with social-emotional well-being.
  - Region 2 Involvement in 2022-23 CAELI COE Fellowship
-

## REGION 2 – ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY AND EXPANDED LEARNING



Environmental Literacy  
Synthesis Grant Funded  
by CREEC (Partnership  
with Shasta COE) –  
Regions 1, 2, 3, & 4  
3 Cohorts – Formal &  
Informal Educators



ELEMENTS Grant  
Partnership with  
Outdoor Education  
for All funded by CA  
Natural Resources  
Agency

Youth Advisory Council



CAELI COE  
Fellowship

Butte COE  
EXLP Summer  
Programming

SERRF  
Highlights Show  
– Theme:  
Environmental  
Literacy



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# Additional Opportunities and Partners

- Region 2 Project WET Training
- Turtle Bay Exploration Park
- Thermalito Forebay Aquatic Center
- Honeybee Discovery Center
- California State University, Chico



**Region 2  
PROJECT WET TRAINING**  
April 10, 2025  
9am - 1pm  
Boys and Girls Clubs of the North Valley in Chico, CA

THIS INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP HELPS EDUCATORS LEARN ABOUT WATER QUALITY, EROSION, STORM WATER MANAGEMENT, AND STREAM ECOLOGY, PROVIDING PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR TEACHING ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND WATER CONSERVATION.

*Workshop Focus Areas*

- Water Quality & Pollution
- Erosion & Environmental Impact
- Storm Water Management
- Stream Ecology
- Hands-on Environmental Education

**REGISTER HERE**

*Key Learning Objectives*

- Understanding point and non-point source pollution
- Analyzing erosion and deposition processes
- Exploring storm water management solutions
- Evaluating stream health through biological indicators
- Implementing science-based environmental protection strategies

*What Participants Will Learn*

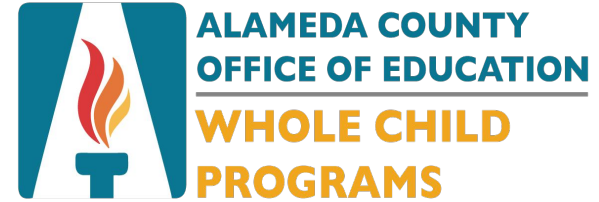
- How water moves through different landscapes
- Impact of vegetation on erosion control
- Engineering solutions for flood protection
- Stream ecology assessment techniques
- Best management practices for water quality

**QUESTIONS? Jeff Salberg**  
jsalberg@bnoe.org  
530.433.2302

**project WET**  
WATER EDUCATION TOGETHER



# Region 4 Expanded Learning Programs



**Monica Dennis**

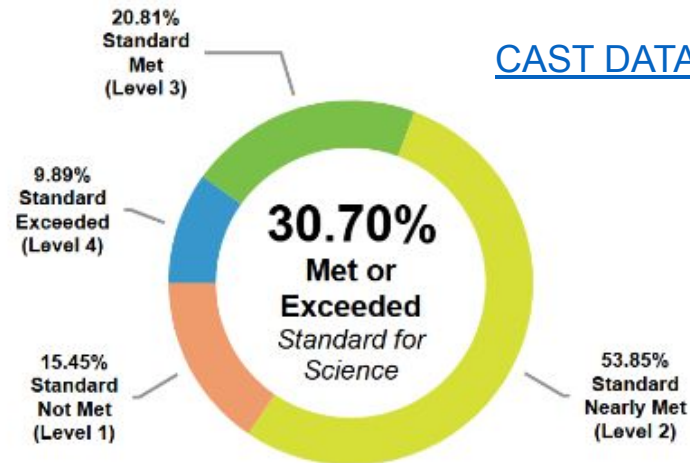
Program Director,  
STEAM & Expanded Learning  
Programs  
Alameda COE



# What?

**Curriculum Goals:** Connect NGSS Earth Systems Standards and Performance Assessments with enrichment activities during expanded learning programs.

**Equity Connections:** Providing more opportunities for unduplicated pupils to have high quality STEAM experiences in expanded learning programs will help them perform better on science standardized test as well as help them develop a positive identity with science, engineering, and environmental concepts.



## **Current Actions:**

- Review CA NGSS Performance Assessments and CA Environmental Principles
- Use project based learning for students to explore campus ecosystems and reflect upon their community's environmental health
- Encourage students to become more civically engaged.



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# So What?



Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo & Solano Counties

[acoe.org/region4](http://acoe.org/region4)

**Monica Dennis**

Program Director,  
STEAM & Expanded Learning Programs  
Alameda COE

## Expanded Learning Green Site Award



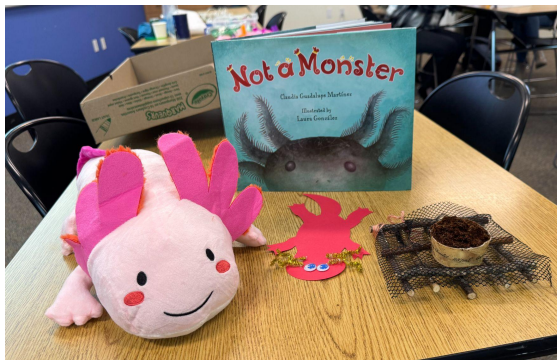
By empowering students to incorporate environmentally responsible actions into their expanded learning program, students will increase their civic engagement as they inspire others to make green behaviors the norm.



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# Now What?



Click [HERE](#) for Axolotl and Chinampas Activities or [HERE](#) for Climate Quipu



# Delta-Sierra River Guardians Program

**Jose Marquez, STEM**  
Meaningful Watershed Educational Program  
Coordinator  
[imarquez@stancoe.org](mailto:imarquez@stancoe.org)

# Delta-Sierra River Guardians



- Year-long Program
- Seed grant from eeBLUE 21st CCLC Watershed STEM Ed. Partnership grant → 16 ASES sites.
- Primary goal of building the capacity of expanded learning staff to lead their own environmental literacy program (MWEE)



# Program Goals

- ❑ Get students outdoors!!!
- ❑ Learn about environmental issues affecting local watersheds
- ❑ Train expanding learning staff to lead classroom and outdoor activities



# MWEE Framework (Environmental Ed.)



The NOAA Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) is a **learner-centered** framework that focuses on investigations into **local environmental issues** and leads to **informed action**.

1. Issue definition
2. Outdoor Field Experiences (data collection)
3. Synthesis and Conclusion
4. Action Project - (communicate findings)

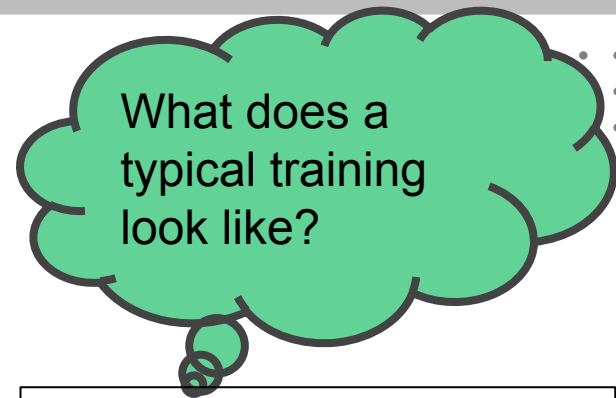


# Outdoor Field Experiences

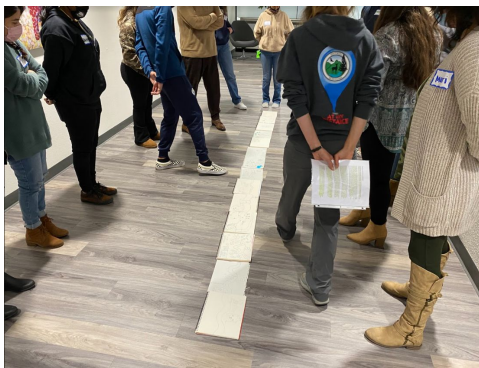
Nature Journaling with Macroinvertebrates, Bioblitz, Water Quality Monitoring

- ❑ 80+ students
- ❑ Include partners
- ❑ Lean on experts -- outdoor ed, CPs





**AM:** professional development;  
provide ready-to-use kits  
**PM:** Facilitate (record) at one of  
the expanded learning sites.





# Breakout Rooms



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Please choose a breakout room based on the story that you would like learn more about:

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Alameda / Region 4: Monica Dennis

Stanislaus/ Region 6: Jose Marquez



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# Breakout Rooms



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# Discussion Questions:

1. How have you worked with either your expanded learning or content area colleagues?
2. What are the sorts of projects that you would like to work on in the future?
3. What are some successes/challenges that you have had?



# Closing



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# Expanded Learning Landscape Survey for Expanded Learning Educators:

[Expanded Learning Environmental Literacy/ Nature  
Based Curriculum Interest Form](#)



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# County Office of Education Environmental Literacy Community of Practice

MEETING 1  
August 29, 2024

Suite of Tools and Resources Available to  
Support Environmental Literacy

MEETING 2  
October 31, 2024

Curriculum Integration

MEETING 3  
December 12, 2024

Community Based Partner Networks

MEETING 4  
February 27, 2025

Expanded Learning

MEETING 5  
April 24, 2025

Youth Programs

Please register [here](#) for all 2024-2025 meetings!



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# Thank You COE Innovation Hub

[Amity Sandage](#), Environmental Literacy Coordinator,  
Santa Cruz County Office of Education

[Julie Hilborn](#), Environmental Literacy Coordinator,  
San Mateo County Office of Education

[Anthony Quan](#), STEM Coordinator, Los Angeles  
County Office of Education

[Maia Steward](#), Continuous Improvement Specialist,  
Mendocino County Office of Education

[Summer Belloni](#), Environmental Literacy Program  
Manager, Solano County Office of Education

[Jose Marquez](#), STEM Coordinator, Stanislaus County  
Office of Education

[Monica Dennis](#), Program Manager for STEAM &  
Expanded Learning, Alameda County Office of  
Education

[Tamara Basepayne](#), Coordinator Outdoor  
Education and Environmental Literacy, Durham  
Ferry STEM Programs, San Joaquin County Office of  
Education

[Jennifer Mutch](#), Environmental Literacy Coordinator,  
Santa Clara County Office of Education

[Katie Beck](#), STEM Coordinator, Orange County  
Department of Education

[Olivia Kernen](#), Coordinator, Humboldt County Office  
of Education

[Crystal Starr Howe](#), Environmental Literacy  
Coordinator, San Diego County Office of Education



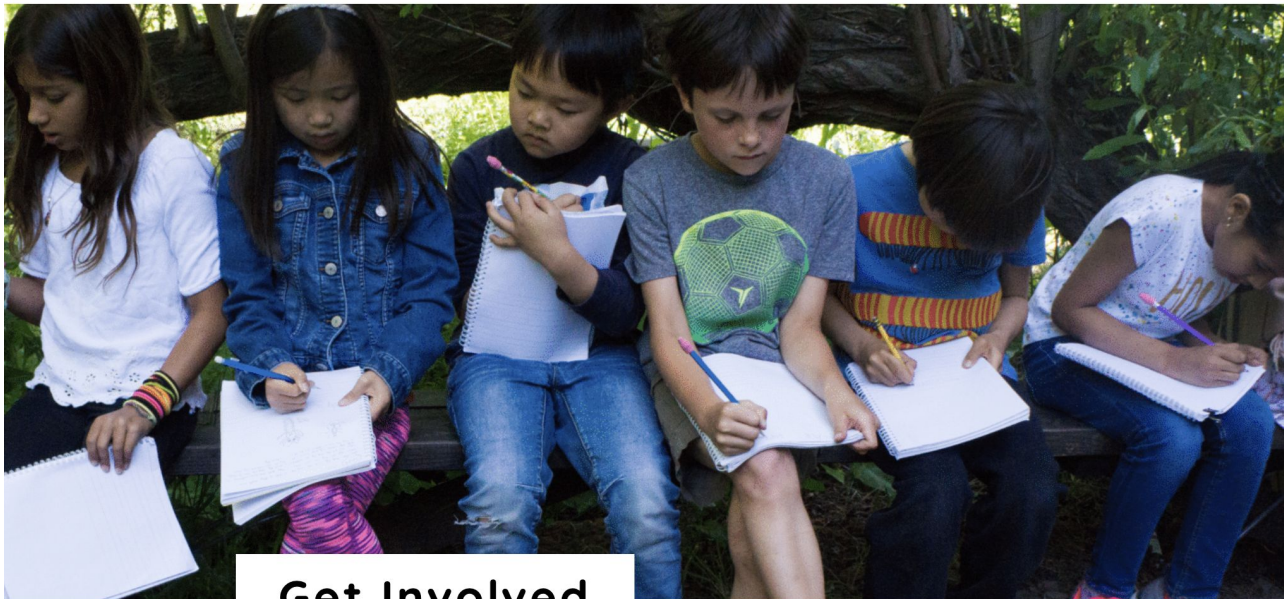
# Gots & Needs

Please take a moment to fill out your:

**Gots** → Something that inspired you or you will carry forward from today.

**Needs** → Something you are hoping to discuss or learn with the CoP this year.





## Get Involved

[STAY IN TOUCH](#)[MEMBERSHIP LEVELS](#)[JOIN CAELI](#)[ENGAGE WITH US](#)[IN THEIR WORDS](#)

Sign up for the newsletter at

[ca-eli.org](https://ca-eli.org)